

# **Kazakhstan**

*(January 4 - 10, 2022)*

## **Violence against reporters covering protests in Kazakhstan**

**January 4.** Journalist the Dozhd TV channel Vasily Polonsky and the reporter of the independent news site The Insider Vasily Krestyaninov came under fire in Almaty. Armed men in uniform first fired into the air, and then on the asphalt at the feet of journalists. Polonsky and Krestyaninov were not injured.

**January 4.** Ruslan Pryanikov, a photographer for the French news agency AFP, suffered a leg injury, he was hit by a car while covering demonstrations in Almaty.

**January 5.** Protesters seized five TV channels in Almaty: MIR, Khabar, Eurasia, CPC and Kazakhstan. Offices of TV companies were smashed, expensive equipment was damaged, video cameras were stolen, employees were not injured.

**January 5.** Almaty. Special Correspondent and Editor Orda.kz Bagdat Asylbek was detained in Almaty, he was filming a report about how the soldiers of the special squad shot towards a group of people.

**January 5.** Police detained Serik Yesenov, a reporter for Uralskaya Nedelya. He was taken to the Abai district police department and tried to remove the footage. The journalist managed to inform Tamara Eslyamova, the editor-in-chief of the Ural Week, about the detention, who promptly contacted the press secretary of the city's Internal Affairs Department. As a result, the footage was saved, Yesenov was released.

**January 5.** Journalist of the Ural Week, Yesenzhol Elekenov, was detained and taken to the police and all the footage from his phone was deleted. When covering the protests, Yesenzhol received quite serious injuries, because of which he was forced to go to the hospital.

**January 5.** Orda.kz journalists Bek Baytas and Leonid Razumov were slightly injured when they covered the attack on the building of the Akimat of Almaty

**January 5.** Photojournalist "Vlast.kz" "Almaz Kaysar was attacked while filming a demonstration. The journalist's smartphone was torn from his hands and smashed on the ground.

**January 5.** Photographer of the newspaper "Ak Zhaik", Farhat Abilov, was beaten while filming clashes between demonstrators and police in the city of Atyrau.

**January 6.** Employee of the Kazakh TV channel "Almaty", the driver of the film crew Muratkhan Bazarbayev died in Alma-Ata. The car in which the film crew was traveling came under fire. There was also an employee of the TV channel Diasken Baytibayev in the car, he was

wounded. The journalist was hospitalized, and later two fingers on his right hand were amputated.

**January 6.** Freelance photographer Almaz Toleke was hospitalized with a gunshot wound to his leg. He was injured during curfew hours, but was on the street with all the necessary permits.

**On January 7.** Darin Nursapar, a journalist and editor of the Altaynews website, was detained by law enforcement officers at a demonstration and two days later a court decision was already made, he was accused of participating in rallies and demonstrations that were held in violation of the order established by the laws of Kazakhstan. The journalist was arrested for 15 days.

**On January 7.** Stanislav Obishchenko, a freelance correspondent for the Russian TV channel Russia Today, was detained by the military when he and his team were filming military equipment on Republic Square in Alma-Ata. The official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova, said that the agency had been notified of the detention of a Russian journalist and was investigating the situation. The detention of Obishchenko became known on January 8. It was clarified that the Kazakh military conducted a harsh detention against a correspondent of Russia Today.

**January 7.** Earlier it was reported that Gulnara Minkova, the manager of MK's foreign projects, and Sergey Aparin, the editor-in-chief of MK in Kazakhstan, disappeared in Kazakhstan. They haven't been in touch for several days. The journalists are safe now.

**January 10.** Uralsk. The Court of Appeal refused to satisfy the appeal of the journalist Lukpan Akhmedyarov without explaining the reasons. The journalist challenged the court's decision of January 7, according to which he was arrested for 10 days on charges of participating in an unauthorized rally.